Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An alarm display unit of an IC tester for displaying an alarm when an abnormality occurs in a measured IC, the alarm display unit comprising:

a sampling control portion for collecting data in advance for use in deciding a permissible value for issuing an alarm display;

a permissible value calculation portion for calculating the permissible value on the basis of the data collected by the sampling control portion; and

an alarm control portion for judging whether an abnormality has occurred and whether the alarm is to be displayed or not, on the basis of the permissible value calculated by the permissible value calculation portion and the number of continuous failures occurring in ~~a measured value obtained from~~ the measured IC.

2. (Original) The alarm display unit according to claim 1, further comprising:

a sampling memory for storing the data collected by the sampling control portion;

a permissible value memory for storing the permissible value calculated by the permissible value calculation portion; and

a measured value memory for storing the measured value obtained from the measured IC, the measured value being used for comparison performed by the alarm control portion.

3. (Previously Presented) An alarm display unit of an IC tester for displaying an alarm when an abnormality occurs in a measured IC, the alarm display unit comprising:

a sampling control portion for collecting data in advance for use in deciding a permissible value for issuing an alarm display;

a permissible value calculation portion for calculating the permissible value on the basis of the data collected by the sampling control portion; and

an alarm control portion for judging whether the alarm is to be displayed or not, on the basis of the permissible value calculated by the permissible value calculation portion and a measured value obtained from the measured IC;

wherein the sampling control portion collects in advance data on the number of continuous failures by the measured IC;

the permissible value calculation portion calculates a mean value μ and a standard deviation σ of the data on the number of continuous failures, and sets a value of $\mu+3\sigma$ as the permissible value; and

the alarm control portion compares the value of $\mu+3\sigma$ with the measured value of the number of continuous failures, and judges whether the alarm is to be displayed or not, on the basis of the comparison.

4. (Original) The alarm display unit according to claim 3, further comprising:

a sampling memory for storing the data on the number of continuous failures;

a permissible value memory for storing the value of $\mu+3\sigma$; and

a measured value memory for storing the measured value of the number of continuous failures, the measured value of the number of continuous failures being used for comparison.